

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 5, following the paragraph beginning "Figure 6 schematically illustrates . . .," insert the following new paragraph:

B₂ ^{Am} 5-304 Figure 7 is a schematic side elevation of a loop component of the fastening system of Fig. 1.

On page 23, line 8, please amend the paragraph beginning with "In accordance with the present invention" as follows:

B₃ In accordance with the present invention, the loop type fastener (e.g., fastener 84, 85) is preferably made of a multi-directional stretchable material (designated 90 in Fig. 7) made with a gathered nonwoven face and an elastic substrate (designated 92 in Fig. 7) so that the composite is extensible and provides retraction tension over a suitable range of extensions. With particular reference to Figure 3, the first fastening components 82 and 83 are desirably although not necessarily disposed on the inner surface 28 of the training pant 20 in the back waist region 24. The first fastening components 82 and 83 are desirably positioned along the distal edges 68 of the back side panels 134, and abutting or adjacent to the waist end edge 72. In certain embodiments, for example, the first fastening components 82 and 83 can be located within about 2 centimeters, and more particularly within about 1 centimeter, of the distal edges 68, the waist end edges 72, and the leg end edges 70.

On page 27, line 2, please amend the paragraph beginning with "The multi-directional stretchable loop material" as follows:

By The multi-directional stretchable loop material can be formed by various methods, including those specifically described below and combinations and permutations thereof. For instance, the multi-directional stretchable loop material can be formed by elongating an elastomeric substrate in multiple directions and bonding the stretched elastomeric substrate to a nonwoven web. The elastomeric substrate can for example be stretched in both a machine direction and a cross machine direction. The nonwoven web can be ungathered, gathered in one direction, or gathered in multiple directions. In particular embodiments, the multi-directional stretchable loop material can comprise a generally ungathered nonwoven web stretch-bonded to a multi-directional stretch elastomeric material.

Additionally, the multi-directional stretchable loop material can be formed by pregathering a nonwoven web and bonding the pregathered nonwoven to an elastomeric substrate having elongation characteristics in a direction other than or besides the direction of gathering. The nonwoven web can be gathered by any suitable means, such as creping, necking, use of retractive materials, or the like. Suitable retractive materials for gathering the nonwoven web or composite can comprise any material adapted to retract upon activation, whether immediately upon activation or subsequently thereto. The retractive material can comprise elastomeric or nonelastomeric materials. ~~Suitable nonelastomeric retractive materials can comprise without limitation polyether block amides (PEBAX) or the like, and laminates thereof.~~ Suitable elastomeric retractive materials can comprise without limitation LYCRA[®] elastomeric materials, elastomeric materials including latex rubber or synthetic urethanes, or the like, polyether block amides (PEBAX) or the like, and laminates thereof. In

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particular embodiments, the retractive material can comprise an elastomeric material having an unstable state relative to some other stable and elastic state. In such embodiments, the retractive material can but need not have elastomeric properties in the unstable state. Other exemplary materials retractive materials are described in PCT publication WO 01/87206 dated November 22, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference.

On page 32, line 16, please amend the paragraph that begins with "For example, the elastic sheet" as follows:

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For example, the elastic sheet of base material may be made from block copolymers having the general formula A-B-A' where A and A' are each a thermoplastic polymer endblock which contains a styrenic moiety such as a poly (vinyl arene) and where B is an elastomeric polymer midblock such as a conjugated diene or a lower alkene polymer. The elastic sheet may be formed from, for example, (polystyrene/poly(ethylene-butylene)/polystyrene) block copolymers available from the Shell Chemical Company under the trademark KRATON G. One such block copolymer may be, for example, KRATON[TM] G-1657.

On page 44, please replace the ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION with the following replacement ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION.

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

[An material]

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1 A mechanical fastening system for an article includes a
loop component mountable on the article and capable of multi-
directional stretch. The said loop component is constructed of
a neck-stretched non-woven material and an elastic substrate
wherein the non-woven material is attached directly to the

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cont.
elastic substrate. The fastener system also includes a hook
component mountable on the article and capable of fastening
engagement with the loop component to secure the article in a
fastened configuration. When the hook component is juxtaposed
and engaged with at least a portion of the loop component, the
loop component is stretchable during limited movement of the
loop component relative to the hook component.
